

BIOGRAPHIES - CHAIRS & SPEAKERS

RABIA AKTHAR, *Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Lahore*

Prof Dr. Rabia Akhtar is Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Lahore, where she also serves as Professor of International Relations and Founding Director of both the Centre for Security, Strategy and Policy Research and the School of Integrated Social Sciences. She holds a PhD in Security Studies from Kansas State University, with earlier degrees from Quaid-i-Azam University and Eastern Illinois University. Her research spans South Asian nuclear security, deterrence, AI and emerging tech, disinformation, and Pakistan's foreign policy. She is the author of *The Blind Eye: U.S. Non-proliferation Policy Towards Pakistan from Ford to Clinton*, and Editor of *Pakistan Politico*. A former member of Prime Minister Imran Khan's Advisory Council on Foreign Affairs (2018–2022), she is an Associate of Managing the Atom, Belfer Center at Harvard Kennedy School and visiting faculty at various arms control and disarmament forums.

FER AVAR, *PhD Researcher in International Security, Department of Political Science, University of Antwerp*

Fer Avar is a PhD Researcher in International Security at the University of Antwerp, Department of Political Science, affiliated with the research project PLATFORM WARS. Her work focuses on the emerging attribution of expertise to private defense-tech actors within the global security-defense value chain and its ramifications to a new international political order. She holds an MA in International Relations from Central European University, and an Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts and Sciences BA in Social Sciences from University College Roosevelt, Utrecht University.

JANA BALDUS, *Policy Fellow, European Leadership Network (ELN), London*

Dr Jana Baldus is a Policy Fellow at the European Leadership Network (ELN) and associate researcher at the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF), where she previously worked in the International Security Department. She completed her PhD at the University of Frankfurt in 2024, focusing on polarisation within the NPT regime and normative tensions between the NPT and the TPNW.

Her research explores multilateral nuclear disarmament and arms control, with particular attention to the interaction between the NPT and TPNW, questions of nuclear justice, and how affected societies and the international community address nuclear legacies. She also examines the implications of emerging technologies for nuclear weapons policy and governance.

SIBYLLE BAUER, *Chair, EU Non-proliferation and Disarmament Consortium/Director of Studies, Armament and Disarmament, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)*

Dr Sibylle Bauer is Director of Studies, Armament and Disarmament at SIPRI, with responsibility for SIPRI's work on arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation for nuclear, biological and chemical weapons; dual-use and arms trade control; emerging technologies; and arms production, arms transfer and military expenditure. She is also the current Chair of the EU Nonproliferation and Disarmament Consortium. Previously, she managed SIPRI's Dual-use and Arms Trade Control Programme. In that capacity, she designed and implemented capacity-building activities in Europe and South East Asia. Dr Bauer joined SIPRI in 2003.

LEONARDO BENCINI, *Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva*

Leonardo Bencini graduated in Political Science, international studies, from the University of Florence. He joined the Foreign Service of Italy in 1993 and was assigned to the United Nations Office at the Directorate-General for Political Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where he followed human rights issues. From 1998 to 2001, he served as Consul at the Consulate General of Italy in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. From 2001 to 2005, he was appointed Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Italy to Norway and Iceland in Oslo. He subsequently returned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Rome from 2005 to 2010 as Deputy Head of the UN Division, Directorate of Multilateral Political Affairs, in charge of issues such as reform of the United Nations Security Council, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding.

From 2010 to 2014, he was posted to Moscow as First Counsellor, Head of the Trade and Economic Section of the Embassy of Italy to the Russian Federation and to Turkmenistan. He was then posted to St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, as Consul-General of Italy in that city from 2014 to 2018. In 2017, he was promoted to the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary. From 2019 to 2022, he was Head of Strategy, Global Processes, and International Organisations in the Directorate-General for Development Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Rome. In that capacity, he was in charge of global health issues and coordinated Italy's contribution to the international response to the Covid-19 pandemic and the donation of vaccines to developing countries. In May 2022, he was appointed Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament (CD) in Geneva. He was the President of the Ninth Review Conference of

the Biological Weapons Convention, which took place in Geneva from November to December 2022. He also chaired the meetings of the CD during Italy's rotating presidency of the body in January and February 2025.

ALEXANDER K. BOLLFRASS, *Head of Strategy, Technology and Arms Control, IISS, London*

Dr. Alexander K. Bollfrass is Head of Strategy, Technology and Arms Control at IISS-Europe, focusing on preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons, weapons of mass destruction and related delivery systems, as well as risk reduction and arms control. Before joining IISS, Alex was a Senior Researcher at the Center for Security Studies at ETH Zurich. He was previously a Stanton nuclear security postdoctoral fellow with the Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center and a wargame designer at the Harvard Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies. Alex was a nuclear weapons policy researcher at the Washington-based Arms Control Association and Stimson Center before earning a Ph.D. in security studies from Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs.

BLEDDYN BOWEN, *Associate Professor of Astropolitics and Co-Director of the Space Research Centre, Durham University*

Dr Bleddyn Bowen is Associate Professor of Astropolitics and Co-Director of the Space Research Centre at Durham University. He is an expert in international relations and the military strategy in outer space. He is the author of two monographs: *Original Sin: Power, Technology, and War in Outer Space* (Hurst, 2022) and *War in Space: Strategy, Spacepower, Geopolitics* (Edinburgh University Press, 2020); and multiple peer-reviewed articles (list below). He is also a Co-Director of the Space Research Centre at Durham University. Dr Bowen has advised, presented, and briefed for many government agencies and offices, including the UK Prime Minister's Policy Unit, the US National Space Council, the US Space Force, the European Space Agency, UK Ministry of Defence, UK Space Agency, the UK Parliament, and the Japanese Cabinet Office. Prior to joining Durham University, Dr Bowen taught and researched at the University of Leicester, King's College London, and Aberystwyth University.

MARIANA BUDJERYN, *Senior Researcher, MIT's Center for Nuclear Security Policy, Boston*

Mariana Budjeryn is a Senior Researcher at the MIT's Center for Nuclear Security Policy. She is the author of *Inheriting the Bomb: The Collapse of the USSR and the Nuclear Disarmament of Ukraine* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2023), for which she won the 2024 William E. Colby Military Writers' Award. Her current research focuses on the nuclear crises, escalation, and security of nuclear reactors in armed conflict. Formerly, she held appointments at Harvard Kennedy School, Tufts University, and Peace Research Institute Frankfurt. Mariana is a member of the Committee on International Security and Arms Control of the National Academies of Sciences and a senior non-resident fellow at the Brookings Institution.

JULIANA BUZI, *Regional Cooperation Specialist, Southeastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Belgrade*

Juliana Buzi joined the UNDP SEESAC team in March 2014. She is primarily responsible for coordinating SEESAC's regional cooperation and arms control policy related activities as well as overseeing SEESAC's activities related to the coordination and monitoring of the Western Balkans Roadmap. Juliana holds a degree in philology from the University of Tirana and has completed post-graduate studies at the Albanian Diplomatic Academy. Prior to joining SEESAC, she worked for the NATO Support Agency - NSPA (former-NAMSA) in the implementation of the Anti-Personnel Mines Project in Albania (2000-2001). During 2002-2014, Juliana served as Programme Specialist with the Albanian Mine Action Executive for the implementation of the Mine Action and Hotspots Clearance Programme in Albania. In addition, she held the position of Project Officer at the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), as well as at the Implementation Support Unit for the AP Mines Ban Convention (2006-2008) based in Geneva, Switzerland.

JACEK BYLICA, *Chief of Cabinet for the Director General, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Vienna*

Mr Jacek Bylica took up his current post as Chief of Cabinet to the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna in January 2020.

Previously since 2013 Amb. Bylica worked for the EU as Special Envoy for Non-proliferation and Disarmament out of EEAS Headquarters in Brussels. 2008-2013 he was Head of WMD Non-Proliferation Centre at NATO International Staff in Brussels. In this capacity he co-chaired the NATO-Russia Council's Working Group on Arms Control, Disarmament, and Non-proliferation (NRC/ADN).

2004-2008 Amb. Bylica was Resident Representative of Poland to the UN Office and other international organisations in Vienna. The many positions he previously held in Poland's diplomatic service included: Head of Arms Control and Disarmament Division, Director of Minister's Secretariat, Director of Security Policy Department.

Born in 1963 in Warsaw, Mr Bylica studied in Warsaw, Moscow, Beijing, and Boston, and holds graduate degrees in international relations, and in law and diplomacy.

LUDOVICA CASTELLI, *Project Manager at the EUNPDC, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI), Rome*

In this role, Ludovica Castelli (Ph.D.) manages the Programme's activities within the EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium (EUNPDC) and leads research on non-proliferation and disarmament. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Leicester, where she was part of the ERC-funded "Third Nuclear Age" project. Her work focuses on Critical Security Studies, conceptual history, and nuclear studies, with a focus on the Middle East. Ludovica has presented her work at numerous academic and Track 1.5 venues across the US, the Middle East, and Europe, and has published in academic journals—including *The Nonproliferation Review* and *Middle East Journal*—as well as in policy papers and commentaries. She is co-author of the book *The Global Third Nuclear Age* (Routledge, 2025) and is currently working on her first monograph based on her doctoral thesis.

CHIARA CERVASIO, *Policy Fellow and Programme Manager of the Programme on Nuclear Responsibilities, British American Security Information Council (BASIC), London*

Chiara is a Policy Fellow and Programme Manager of the Programme on Nuclear Responsibilities at BASIC.

Her research focuses on security dynamics between nuclear-armed states, especially India-China and India-Pakistan relations. Her expertise includes nuclear diplomacy, trust-building, and crisis management and de-escalation practices. Chiara has published in high impact journals and regularly writes policy briefs and reports on these topics.

Chiara has presented her work at various policy forums including the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO), Wilton Park, and the Department of National Defence (DND) of Canada. In 2023, her paper “Exercising Status Recognition Sensibility: The Empathic De-escalation of the Sino-Indian 1998 Status Dilemma,” was awarded the Best Paper Prize from the Italian Standing Group of International Relations (SGRI).

Chiara holds a PhD in Political Science and International Relations from the University of Birmingham, a first-class Master from the University of Bologna and a first-class degree from the University of Pisa.

CHRISTOPHER CLARY, *Associate Professor of Political Science, University at Albany, New York*

Christopher Clary is an associate professor of Political Science at the University at Albany, State University of New York, and a nonresident fellow with the Stimson Center’s South Asia program. He is the author of *The Difficult Politics of Peace: Rivalry in Modern South Asia* (Oxford University Press, 2022). He previously held fellowships at Brown University, Harvard University, the RAND Corporation, and the Council on Foreign Relations. Clary holds a PhD in political science from MIT, a Master’s in National Security Affairs from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School, and a Bachelor’s in History and International Studies from Wichita State University.

FEDERICA DALL’ARCHE, *Senior Research Associate, Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP)*

Federica Dall’Arche is a Senior Research Associate with the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP). She also serves as an advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy. She is a former policy advisor to the Italian Presidency of The Council of Ministers (Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri). Ms. Dall’Arche’s work focusses on arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament and on gender issues in international security.

ABDOLRASOOL DIVSALLAR, *Senior Research Fellow, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), Geneva*

Dr. Abdolrasool (Farzam) Divsallar is a Senior Researcher at the UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR). He is also a visiting professor at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milan. His research focuses on the intersection of security and regional studies. Dr. Divsallar’s interests include military strategies in the Persian Gulf, security assistance, and nuclear non-proliferation issues. He has authored and edited eight books, including “Struggle for Alliance: Russia and Iran in the Era of War in Ukraine” (2024), and has published numerous peer-reviewed journal articles. Before joining UNIDIR, he co-led the Regional Security Initiative at the European University Institute (EUI) in Florence, worked as a researcher at the Defense Industries Training and Research Institute, and the Center for Strategic Studies in Tehran. Divsallar holds a Ph.D. in Political Science—Iranian Studies from the University of Tehran.

SARAH C. G. DUNN, *PhD candidate, School of History, Politics, and International Relations, University of Leicester*

Sarah C.G. Dunn is a PhD candidate at the University of Leicester’s School of History, Politics, and International Relations and is currently based in Washington, D.C. as a Visiting Scholar at George Washington University’s Space Policy Institute. Her doctoral research focuses on Soviet and Russian decision-making on anti-satellite weapon systems through assessments of military need, the decision-making environment, and context. She received a Master’s in Security Studies from George Washington University and studied Russian and Politics at the University of Edinburgh for her undergraduate degree.

FRANCESCA GIOVANNINI, *Executive Director, Belfer Center’s Project on Managing the Atom, Harvard University, Boston*

Francesca Giovannini is the Executive Director of the Belfer Center’s Project on Managing the Atom at Harvard University and the Director of the Research Network on Rethinking Nuclear Deterrence. The Network, established by the Belfer Center in partnership with the MacArthur Foundation, currently brings together more than 80 scholars across 15 universities worldwide to explore new approaches to deterrence in the 21st century.

Dr. Giovannini also serves as the lead faculty member of the Harvard Nuclear Deterrence Certificate Program, a professional training initiative designed for U.S. and allied military leadership engaged in nuclear and strategic deterrence missions. She has also designed and currently teaches the course “Geopolitics of Technology,” which examines how emerging technologies are reshaping international power dynamics and national security strategies.

Dr. Giovannini has held senior advisory roles in several international organizations. Most recently, she served as Senior Policy Adviser to the Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), where she worked to advance the ratification of the Treaty among key nuclear-armed states, including the United States, China, and Pakistan.

She holds a Doctorate from the University of Oxford (UK) and two master’s degrees from the University of California, Berkeley. Her work has been published in *Nature*, *The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, *Arms Control Today*, *The National Interest*, *The Hill*, and *The Washington Post*, among others. She is a frequent commentator on Italian media on issues related to NATO, nuclear weapons, emerging technologies, and European security.

ETTORE GRECO, *Executive Vice President, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI), Rome*

Ettore Greco is Executive Vice President of the IAI and also Head of the “Multilateralism and global governance” programme of the Institute. He was also Director of the IAI from 2008 to 2017. He worked as visiting fellow at the Brookings Institution from January 2006 to

July 2007. He taught at the universities of Parma and Bologna. From 2000 to 2006 he worked as correspondent for the Economist Intelligence Unit. From 1993 to 2000 he directed the IAI's programme on Central and Eastern Europe. He was also Deputy Director of the IAI from 1997 to 2008. From 2000 to 2006 he was Editor of The International Spectator. He is the author of a number of publications on the EU's institutions and foreign policy, transatlantic relations and the Balkans. He has been a free-lance journalist since 1988.

JENNIE GROMOLL, *Non-Resident Fellow, James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS), Washington DC*

Jennie Gromoll served in the U.S. Department of State and former U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency for thirty-eight years. She was involved in bilateral nuclear, chemical and biological weapons negotiations with the Soviets/Russians and related multilateral WMD negotiations, regional security in the Middle East, and investigation/dismantlement of Soviet, Iraqi and Libyan weapons of mass destruction. Until recently, she served as Senior Advisor for Europe and Eurasia in the Office of Policy Coordination of the International Security and Nonproliferation Bureau. She is currently a Non-Resident Fellow at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS), a Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Sandia National Laboratory, Center for Global Security and Cooperation (CGSC) Cooperative Monitoring Center, and serves as Senior Advisor to the Odesa Center for Nonproliferation (OdCNP). She helps bring together the WMD communities to share resources and lessons learned, and to broaden opportunities for education/professional development across regions and generations.

RAFAEL GROSSI, *Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Vienna*

After decades of experience in non-proliferation and disarmament, Rafael Mariano Grossi became IAEA Director General in December 2019 and has since been elected unanimously to a second term.

While Ambassador of Argentina to Austria and Argentine Representative to the IAEA and other International Organizations, Mr Grossi was president-designate of the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. He was president of the Nuclear Suppliers Group and presided over the Diplomatic Conference of the Convention of Nuclear Safety, securing unanimous approval for the Vienna Declaration on Nuclear Safety.

He also served in high-level positions in the Argentine Foreign Service and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

Mr Grossi is a strong proponent of gender balance in the nuclear field. He holds a PhD in International Relations, international History and Politics from University of Geneva, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies.

HUA HAN, *Associate Professor, School of International Studies (SIS), Peking University*

HAN Hua is Associate Professor at the School of International Studies (SIS), Peking University, China. She founded the Center for Arms Control and Disarmament in 1990s at SIS. She teaches courses in International Arms Control, Disarmament and Nonproliferation, and IR and nuclear deterrence in South Asia, International Relations Theory. Her research interests cover nuclear-related deterrence and strategic stability both in regional and global perspectives.

Han Hua has been a visiting researcher at The Managing of Atom Project, at Belfer Center, Harvard University, USA; School of International Affairs, Georgia Institute of Technology, USA; Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), Sweden; the Stimson Center, USA; the Monterey Center for Nonproliferation, USA; Victoria University, Canada; and the Peace and Conflict Institute, Uppsala University, Sweden. She has also written extensively on Arms Control, nonproliferation and South Asia for journals and newspapers in China and abroad.

BENJAMIN HAUTECOUVERTURE, *Senior Research Fellow, Fondation pour la Recherche Stratégique (FRS), Paris*

Benjamin Hautecouverture is a Senior research fellow for deterrence and arms control issues at the Fondation pour la recherche stratégique (FRS), France. He is the Technical Director of the EU Partner to Partner programme of the European Union for the implementation and universalisation of the Arms Trade Treaty, at Expertise France. He is a senior fellow at the Canadian Global Affairs Institute, in Ottawa. He used to be a lecturer at Science Po Paris. He is the author of several books in collaboration. His latest articles addressed the issue of European strategic autonomy, the future of strategic stability, strategic risk reduction, the NPT and the P5 process, the relevance of deterrence. His two latest collaborative books are Arms Control and Europe - New Challenges and Prospects for Strategic Stability, Springer, August 2022, 180p. and "What rethinking deterrence means", in Le monde ne sera plus jamais comme avant, Les Liens qui Libèrent Publishing, pp. 139 – 154, November 2022.

AMNAH IBRAHEEM, *Director of Emergency Operations and Senior Advisor to the GCC Emergency Management Center, Kuwait City*

Amnah Ibraheem is Director of Emergency Operations and Senior Advisor to the GCC Emergency Management Center. She was previously a researcher at the IISS and the Head of the IISS Manama Dialogue Young Leaders' Programme. She specializes in the nuclear and energy policies of the Gulf states. Her expertise includes Gulf energy policy, nuclear security, and Gulf regional security. She previously worked at the Global Security Directorate of Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee, and attended trainings at multiple US National labs including Brookhaven National Laboratory in New York and Sandia National Laboratory in New Mexico. She is a member of Middle East Next Generation of Arms Control Specialists (MENACS), a program of the James Martin Center for Non-proliferation Studies (CNS) at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey.

CAMERON P. HUNTER, *Researcher, University of Copenhagen*

Dr Cameron Hunter is a Researcher at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, as part of the EU-funded RITUAL DETERRENCE project. His research uses a combination of critical approaches to understand US-China strategic competition, particularly in the areas of nuclear

weapons and space technology. Cameron previously worked at the University of Leicester as part of the Third Nuclear Age project, where he designed a number of nuclear conflict simulations in his capacity as wargames lead. Prior to this, he was a British Research Council Fellow at the Kluge Center at the Library of Congress, Washington DC. He recently co-authored *The Global Third Nuclear Age: Clashing Visions for a New Era in International Politics*, with other work appearing in the *Journal of Strategic Studies* and *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, among others.

UNA JAKOB, *Head of the Research Group Biological and Chemical Disarmament and Security, Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF)*

Dr. Una Jakob is a senior researcher and head of the Research Group 'Biological and Chemical Disarmament and Security' at the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF). She holds a PhD in Political Science from Frankfurt University, and her research areas include the non-proliferation and disarmament of chemical and biological weapons (CBW); investigation of alleged CBW use; the norms against CBW; biosecurity, emerging technologies and CBW; and the governance of research with dual-use potential. Dr Jakob is a member of the Joint Committee on the Handling of Security-Relevant Research of the German Research Foundation and German National Academy of Sciences, and of CEPI's Biosecurity Strategy Group. She has participated in most meetings of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) in Geneva since the mid-2000s in her role as advisor to the German BWC delegations.

STEPHAN KLEMENT, *Special Envoy for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, European External Action Service (EEAS), Brussels*

Ambassador Stephan Klement has been appointed EU Special Envoy for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation in February 2024. From 2019 to 2023 he served as EU Head of Delegation to the International Organisations in Vienna. Since 2016 he has also been the Special Advisor for the Iranian nuclear issue in the European External Action Service, Brussels.

Earlier in his career he served as Head of Unit Euratom Co-ordination, Legal Matters and International Relations, Directorate-General for Energy, European Commission, Luxembourg (2014-2017); Senior Advisor for the Iranian nuclear issue, European External Action Service, Brussels (2010-2015); Office of the European Union High Representative's Personal Representative for non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, European Council, Brussels (2004-2010); Assistant to the Director for Nuclear Inspections, Directorate-General for Energy and Transport, European Commission, Luxembourg (2002-2004); Administrator, Security Policy Unit, Directorate-General for External Relations, European Commission, Brussels (2000-2001); Administrator, Nuclear External Relations, Directorate-General for Energy, European Commission, Brussels (1998-2000); and Scientific Advisor, Austrian Permanent Mission to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva during the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty negotiations (1996-1997).

STEPHEN LILLIE, *Director for Defence and International Security, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), London*

Mr Stephen Lillie CMG became the Director for Defence and International Security at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) in September 2022.

A senior career diplomat, Stephen has extensive experience of complex geopolitical issues, with particular focus on the Indo-Pacific region. He has had postings across Asia in China, India and the Philippines, where he was British Ambassador. He was Foreign Office Asia-Pacific Director from 2013 to 2017, advising the Government on UK policy towards China, and leading official engagement with key regional partners including Australia, Japan, the Republic of Korea and New Zealand. Most recently Stephen was British High Commissioner to Cyprus from 2018 to 2022.

IRMA MAKALINAO, *Coordinator for CBRN Health Security Initiatives, College of Medicine, University of the Philippines Manila and Member of the ISC Expert Group for Science-Policy Synergies for the Biological Weapons Convention, Manila*

Dr Irma R. Makalinao is a Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology and Coordinator for CBRN Health Security Initiatives at the College of Medicine University of the Philippines Manila, a recognized expert in biosecurity, chemical security, toxicology, and health security. She has championed biological and chemical weapons nonproliferation, contributing extensively to the implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), and promoting confidence-building measures and South-South cooperation in CBRN risk reduction. She has played an important role in the passage of the Chemical Weapons Act of the Philippines. A key architect in the establishment of the European Union CBRN Centres of Excellence for Southeast Asia. She has worked across regions to strengthen institutional capacities and develop sustainable strategies for managing CBRN threats. Her leadership bridges science, policy, and diplomacy, advocating for collaborative interprofessional approaches to public health and CBRN security. Dr. Irma Makalinao's lifelong commitment to education, international collaboration, and nonproliferation continues to shape global discourse on health security, biological and chemical risk mitigation.

BRANKA MARIJAN, *Senior Researcher, Project Ploughshares, Hamilton, Canada*

Branka Marijan is a senior researcher at Project Ploughshares and a CIGI senior fellow. She is a lecturer in the Master of Global Affairs program at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at the University of Toronto.

At Ploughshares, Branka leads research on the military and security implications of emerging technologies. Her work examines concerns regarding the development of autonomous weapons systems and the impact of artificial intelligence and robotics on security provision. Her research interests include trends in warfare, civilian protection, use of drones and civil-military relations.

She holds a Ph.D. from the Balsillie School of International Affairs with a specialization in conflict and security. She has conducted research on post-conflict societies and published academic articles and reports on the impacts of conflict on civilians and diverse issues of security governance, including security sector reform.

NICHOLAS MARSH, *Senior Researcher, Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)*

Nicholas Marsh is a senior researcher at the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), where he has been employed since 2001. He specializes in arms production and trade, military aid, arms control, disarmament and the relationships between weapons, conflict and peace. He holds a doctorate from the University of Oslo and has also worked as a consultant for the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and for the Small Arms Survey, and he was the chair of a European COST research network on small arms and light weapons. Marsh's recent work includes having led projects at PRIO on arms control and security cooperation in Europe, geopolitical competition concerning digital technology in Southeast Asia, landmine action and the future of humanitarian disarmament. His recent publications include work on the political economy of European defence production, European approaches to deterrence, military aid provided to Ukraine, post-conflict disarmament, humanitarian disarmament, and illicit firearms trafficking.

CYRIL MARTEL, *Head of the Biosecurity Division, Danish Centre for Biosecurity and Biopreparedness, Copenhagen*

Dr. Cyril Martel is Head of the Biosecurity Division at the Center for Biosecurity and Biopreparedness (CBB), an agency under the Danish Ministry of Health responsible for the national oversight of high-risk biological agents and emerging biotechnologies. He leads Denmark's efforts to enhance biosecurity governance and mitigate dual-use risks, and advises national authorities on export control, biotechnology, and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC). Dr. Martel holds a PhD in immunology from the University of Copenhagen and has worked extensively at the intersection of research, regulation, and national security. His previous experience includes work with the World Health Organization and national authorities on outbreak preparedness and response, including during the COVID-19 pandemic. His current focus is on adaptive regulatory approaches and international cooperation to prevent the misuse of life sciences in an era of accelerating technological convergence.

MANUEL MARTINEZ MIRALLES, *Programme Management Officer Conventional Arms Branch, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), New York*

Manuel Martinez Miralles is a Programme Management Officer in the Conventional Arms Branch of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs where he covers political processes on small arms and ammunition management, transparency, and training programmes and international assistance in conventional arms control. Before joining UNODA, Manuel was the UNIDIR's Liaison Officer at UNHQ and a Senior Researcher on Conventional. Over the years, he has led several applied research and policy and technical assistance programmes in the fields of weapons and ammunition management, diversion and illicit trafficking prevention, and ammunition profiling in different regions.

Earlier in his career, Manuel worked for several years at the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament, and Development in Latin America (UNLIREC) and in public and private sectors. He holds a M.A. in Public Administration from the Monterey Institute of International Studies and a B.A. in Business Administration from University Complutense of Madrid.

CHRISTINA McALLISTER, *Senior Fellow and Director, Partnerships in Proliferation Prevention Program, Stimson Center, Washington DC*

Ms. Christina McAllister is a Senior Fellow at the Stimson Center, an independent, non-profit research center in Washington, D.C. In this role, she is the Director of the Partnerships in Proliferation Prevention program, leading applied research projects on chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear security and nonproliferation, and Director of the International Nuclear Security Forum, a global network of individuals and civil society organizations dedicated to promoting nuclear security principles and strengthening nuclear security practices around the world. Prior to joining the Stimson Center, Ms. McAllister worked for Booz Allen Hamilton supporting U.S. Department of Defense programs and entities responsible for non-proliferation and countering weapons of mass destruction (CWMD), including the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, U.S. Special Operations Command CWMD Coordinating Authority, and the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Chemical and Biological Defense Programs.

FREDERICO S. DUQUE ESTRADA MEYER, *Ambassador, Special Representative of Brazil to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva*

Ambassador Frederico Meyer has served at the Brazilian Embassies in Iraq (1980-1983), in the Soviet Union (1985-1989), at the Brazilian Mission to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva (1989-1993 and 1998-2003), in Guyana (1993), in Cuba (1995-1998), at the Mission to the UN in NY (2003-2006). He has been Ambassador to Kazakhstan (cumulative with Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan) (2006-2011), Ambassador to Morocco (2011-2015), Alternate Permanent Representative to the UN in NY (2017-2019), Consul General in Guangzhou (2019-2023), and Ambassador to Israel (2023-2024).

ARKADY MOSHES, *Director for Russia, EU's Eastern Neighbourhood and Eurasia Research Programme, Finnish Institute of International Affairs-FIIA, Helsinki*

Arkady Moshes is Director for Russia, EU's Eastern Neighborhood and Eurasia research program at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs. He received his Ph.D in history of international relations from the Russian Academy of Sciences (1992). Before moving to Finland in 2002, he had been since 1988 working in the Institute of Europe in Moscow. From 2008 to 2015 he was an Associate Fellow of Russia and Eurasia Program at Chatham House. He was a visiting scholar at Elliott School of International Relations, GWU, a Public Policy Fellow

at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and a guest lecturer at the NATO Defence College and Geneva Center for Security Policy. His areas of expertise include Russian foreign policy as well as internal and foreign policy of Ukraine and Belarus. Moshes has authored a number of academic publications and is a frequent media commentator.

IZUMI NAKAMITSU, *High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), New York*

Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu assumed her position as Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs on 1 May 2017. Prior to taking on this post, Ms. Nakamitsu served as Assistant Administrator of the Crisis Response Unit at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) since 2014.

She has many years of experience within and outside the United Nations system, most recently as Special Adviser Ad Interim on Follow-up to the Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants between 2016 and 2017. She was previously Director of the Asia and the Middle East Division of the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations between 2012 and 2014, and Director of the Department's Division of Policy, Evaluation and Training, from 2008 to 2012. Between 2005 and 2008, Ms. Nakamitsu was Professor of International Relations at Hitotsubashi University in Tokyo, where she also served as a member of the Foreign Exchange Council to Japan's Foreign Minister, and as a visiting senior adviser on peacebuilding at the Japan International Cooperation Agency. Between 1998 and 2004, she was the Chef de Cabinet and Director of Planning and Coordination at the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, based in Stockholm, Sweden. Earlier in her career, Ms. Nakamitsu was a member of the United Nations Reform Team of former Secretary-General Kofi Annan. She also held positions with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), including within the office of Assistant High Commissioner for Policy and Operations Sergio Vieira de Mello, and in UNHCR field operations in the former Yugoslavia, Turkey and northern Iraq.

Born in 1963, Ms. Nakamitsu holds a Master of Science degree in Foreign Service from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., and a Bachelor of Law degree from Waseda University in Tokyo.

RUHEE NEOG, *Director, Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies (IPCS), New Delhi*

Ruhee Neog is Director of the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies in India. She is part of the International Expert Group convened at the request of the Office of the President of Ukraine to develop frameworks for the Russia-Ukraine war settlement. Ms. Neog serves as a Board Member of the International Nuclear Security Forum at Stimson Center, Fellow with Sandia National Laboratories, and Non-Resident Fellow with the British American Security Information Council. She has held dual fellowships with Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center (Managing the Atom and International Security Program) and the Stimson Center (South Asian Voices), and received a research fellowship from the Nuclear Threat Initiative. She is a graduate of the Transnational Security Cooperation Course conducted by the US Department of Defense's Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies. Ms. Neog holds postgraduate and undergraduate degrees in the History of International Relations (London School of Economics) and Literature (St. Stephen's College, Delhi University).

ELEONORA NERI, *International Relations Specialist, Vienna Institute for Global Studies, MODUL University*

Eleonora Neri is dedicated to advancing international peace and security, with solid expertise in nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. She currently serves as an International Relations Specialist at the Vienna Institute for Global Studies at MODUL University. Previously, she held positions at key international organizations and related institutions, including the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), the Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Vienna, and the Alva Myrdal Centre for Nuclear Disarmament (AMC) at Uppsala University.

Beyond her institutional roles, Eleonora is an active advocate for change. She is a member of the European Leadership Network (ELN) Younger Generation Leaders Network on Euro-Atlantic Security, the 2025 Fellows Scheme of Atomic Anxiety in the New Nuclear Age, and the CTBTO Youth Group.

MICHIRU NISHIDA, *Professor, School of Global Humanities and Social Sciences, Nagasaki University*

Michiru Nishida is professor at the School of Global Humanities and Social Sciences, deputy director of the Research Center for Global Risk, and concurrent professor at the Research Center for Nuclear Abolition (RECNA), Nagasaki University. He is also a member and Senior Research Adviser of the Asia-Pacific Leadership Network (APLN). He specializes in nuclear arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation. Author of "Nuclear Transparency: Practices of the US-USSR/Russia and the NPT and Their Potential Applicability to China." He worked for many years in the field of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation as a diplomat and as Special Adviser for Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. He holds an M.A. in International Policy Studies with a Certificate in Non-Proliferation Studies from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey and a Ph.D. in Law from Hitotsubashi University.

GUILLAUME OLLAGNIER, *Director for Strategic Affairs, Security and Disarmament, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France, Paris*

Graduate from the Institut d'études politiques de Paris (Sciences-Po), Guillaume Ollagnier was appointed Secretary of Foreign Affairs in 2000. After successive administrative positions in the Human Resources Directorate (2000-2006), the General Administration Directorate (2006-2028) and then the General Secretariat of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, he was appointed Foreign Affairs Advisor in 2011.

Political advisor at the Permanent Representation of France to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Brussels until 2012, he joined afterward the Prime Minister's Office as Strategic affairs advisor (2012-2014). From 2014 to 2016, he was advisor in charge of strategic affairs, Russia and the CIS to the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

In 2016, he accepted the position of Deputy Director of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development Office. In 2017, he moved to Berlin as Minister Counselor at the French Embassy, until 2021. On his return to France, he was seconded to the Ministry of the Armed Forces as Head of the Europe, North America and Multilateral Action Department.

In 2023, he joined the corps of government administrators and was appointed Director of Strategic Affairs at the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs.

MICHAL ONDERCO, *Professor of International Relations, Erasmus University Rotterdam*

Michal Onderco is Professor of International Relations in the Department of Public Administration and Sociology at Erasmus University Rotterdam.

His research concerns domestic and international politics of nuclear weapons, with particular focus on Europe. He holds a PhD from the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, and has held positions at the EUI, Columbia, Stanford and Waseda.

His book Europe's Nuclear Umbrella is forthcoming with Cambridge University Press in 2026.

CARMEN ROMERO, *Director of Security Policy, Political Affairs and Security Policy Division, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), Brussels*

Carmen Romero was appointed NATO Director of Security Policy, in the Political Affairs and Security Policy Division, in July 2024.

She previously served as NATO Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Public Diplomacy from October 2016 to June 2024. She joined NATO in May 2004 as Deputy Spokesperson and Head of Press and Media, a position she held for 12 years. She was also Acting NATO Spokesperson, including during the Russia-Georgia war in August 2008.

Prior to this, Carmen had a long career as the Foreign Affairs Correspondent for EFE News Agency based at the United Nations in Geneva, Moscow and Paris, covering events such as the revolution in Romania, the Fall of the Berlin Wall, the war in Chechnya, the crisis in Kosovo, and NATO's air campaign in the former Yugoslavia. From 2001 to 2004 she was Defence and Foreign Affairs Correspondent for EFE News Agency to the European Union and NATO. During that period she was also special envoy to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Carmen has a Master's degree in Journalism and Information Science from the Universidad Complutense de Ciencias de la Información, Madrid. In 1996, she received an award for Young Journalists by the International Press Association in Madrid for her media coverage of the war in Chechnya as special envoy.

In 2018, Carmen was awarded the Bernardo Álvarez del Manzano Prize by the Spanish Association of Defence Journalists for her collaboration with Defence correspondents. In 2019, she was awarded the Decoration of Knight of the Order of the Star of Italy (Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella d'Italia) by the President of the Republic of Italy. In 2022, Carmen was awarded with the Order of Civil Merit Medal (Cruz de Oficial de la Orden del Mérito Civil) by his Majesty the King of Spain.

Both in 2022 and in 2023, Carmen was included in the ranking of the 500 most influential Spanish women by the magazine El Mundo, 'Yo Dona'.

ONDŘEJ ROSENDORF, *Postdoctoral researcher, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, Prague*

Ondřej Rosendorf is a postdoctoral researcher at the Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, and the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg. He is also affiliated with the Peace Research Center Prague and is a member of the European Research Council-funded MICROCODE project. He earned his Ph.D. in International Relations from Charles University in Prague. His research examines public and elite attitudes toward the use of military force, emerging and disruptive technologies, and alliance politics. His work has appeared in leading peer-reviewed journals, most recently in the European Journal of International Relations, Research & Politics, and Security Studies.

OLAMIDE SAMUEL, *Network and Engagement Specialist, Open Nuclear Network (ONN), Vienna*

Dr. Olamide Samuel leads network and engagement initiatives at PAX sapiens. He previously served as Special Envoy of the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (AFCONE) and was a Policy Fellow with the European Leadership Network, where he led the "Protecting the Non-Proliferation Treaty" programme. Olamide completed postdoctoral research in Nuclear Politics at the University of Leicester and was Senior Teaching Fellow at SOAS University of London, where he lectured in International Security and Diplomatic Practice and directed the global disarmament programme, SCRAP Weapons.

He holds a PhD and MA in Security, Intelligence and Diplomacy from the University of Buckingham and a B.ILD in International Law and Diplomacy from Babcock University. Olamide is co-author of Open Source Investigations in the Age of Google (2024) and The Global Third Nuclear Age (2025), and a widely published commentator on nuclear policy, security, and open-source investigations.

VICTORIA SAMSON, *Chief Director, Space Security and Stability, Secure World Foundation, Washington DC*

Victoria Samson brings over 25 years of expertise in military space and security issues to her role as Chief Director of Space Security and Stability at the Secure World Foundation. Her extensive background includes senior analyst positions at the Center for Defense Information, policy work with the Coalition to Reduce Nuclear Dangers, and research for the Missile Defense Agency's Directorate of Intelligence at Riverside Research Institute. A recognized thought leader in space security policy, Ms. Samson actively contributes to international space governance through her role as the International Astronautical Federation's Security Task Force chair and participating in the Space Security Working Group of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Committee on International Security and Arms Control. Ms. Samson holds a B.A. in Political Science with a specialization in international relations from UCLA and an M.A. in International Relations from Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

ELKE SCHWARZ, *Professor of Political Theory, School of Society and Environment – Department of Politics and International Relations, Queen Mary University of London*

Elke holds a PhD from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), an MA in Conflict Studies from the War Studies Department at King's College London (KCL) and a Bachelor in Business Studies from Belmont University (USA). Prior to coming to QMUL, she held academic positions at UCL, Anglia Ruskin University and Leicester University. Her work focuses on the nexus of ethics, technology and politics / warfare with a specific emphasis on new and emerging military technologies, including military Artificial Intelligence (AI), autonomous weapon systems, drones and robots.

She is the author of *Death Machines: The Ethics of Violent Technologies* (Manchester University Press) and her work on military AI and autonomous weapon systems has been widely published in a range of international publications. She is Vice-Chair of the International Committee of Robot Arms Control (ICRAC), an Associate of the Imperial War Museum (IWM) and an RSA Fellow. Elke is also a 2022/23 Centre for Apocalyptic and Post-Apocalyptic Studies (CAPAS) Fellow and 2024 Leverhulme Research Fellow with a project on the politics of apocalyptic AI. She works with a number of civil society organisations and serves on several editorial boards for publications and book series on politics and technology.

ELENA K. SOKOVA, *Executive Director, Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP)*

Elena K. Sokova is the Executive Director of the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation. Her primary research areas are international organizations and regimes in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, fissile materials security and control, nuclear non-proliferation issues in Eurasia, non-proliferation and disarmament education and training. Prior to her post in Vienna, Elena was Deputy Director, James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS) at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, where she worked since 1997. Elena Sokova authored numerous articles, book chapters, reports, and other publications on nonproliferation and nuclear security. Elena serves on the Advisory Boards of the International Youth/Student Pugwash, the Peace Research Center Prague, and the Young Women and Next Generation Initiative of the EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium.

CARINA SOLMIRANO, *Head, Arms Trade Treaty Secretariat, Geneva*

Carina Solmirano has been the Head of the Arms Trade Treaty Secretariat since December 1, 2024. Previously, she led the Arms Trade Treaty Monitor, an independent research project of Control Arms. Her earlier roles include serving at Argentina's Ministry of National Security, as a senior consultant on citizen security at the Inter-American Development Bank, and as a senior researcher in SIPRI's Military Expenditure and Arms Production Program.

With over two decades of experience in international defense and security, Carina has also worked with the Organization of American States, the Argentine Senate, and the NGO Asociación para Políticas Públicas. She has taught courses on international conflict and cooperation, international security, and transnational organized crime. Recognized by UNLIREC in 2014 and 2020 for her contributions to peace, disarmament, and non-proliferation, she holds a Master's in International Security from the Josef Korbel School, University of Denver, and a Bachelor's in Political Science from the University of Buenos Aires.

MACIEJ STADEJEK, *Director for Security and Defence Policy, European External Action Service (EEAS), Brussels*

Maciej Stadejek currently serves as Director for Security and Defence policy of the EU at the European External Action Service. He leads the work of teams dealing with strategic coordination of the development of the CSDP, hybrid and cyber threats, counter terrorism, disarmament, nonproliferation and arms export control, space as well as maritime security. From 2021-24, he was Deputy Head of Permanent Representation of Poland to the EU and Poland's Ambassador in the Political and Security Committee of the EU. As PSC Ambassador at the time of Russian illegal aggression against Ukraine, he contributed to reaching decisions on EU's military support for Ukraine through the European Peace Facility and on establishing the EU Military Assistance Mission in Support of Ukraine (EUMAM).

From 2017 to 2022, Mr. Stadejek served as Director of the Department for External Policy of the EU at the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, responsible for coordination of Polish positions on a broad range of topics within the scope of the CFSP and CSDP. Prior to that, Mr. Stadejek worked as Deputy Director and European Correspondent at the Office of the Political Director, as well as Head of Division for Institutional and Political Coordination at the Polish MFA. In the past, he worked in the European Commission and the European External Action Service where he dealt with the Eastern Partnership.

PETR TOPYCHKANOV, *Associate Senior Researcher, Weapons of Mass Destruction Programme, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)*

Dr Petr Topychkanov is an Associate Senior Researcher at the SIPRI Weapons of Mass Destruction Programme. Additionally he is the Head of Sector for New Challenges in South and Southeast Asia at the Primakov National Research Institute of World Economy and International Relations of the Russian Academy of Sciences. He is also an Assistant Professor at Lomonosov Moscow State University's School of World Politics, where he directs the Master's programme on Regional Issues in World Politics. Previously, from 2006 to 2017, Dr Topychkanov was a research fellow at the Carnegie Moscow Centre's Non-proliferation Programme. In 2009, he obtained his PhD from the Institute of Asian and African Studies at Lomonosov Moscow State University. Dr Topychkanov specialises in nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament, arms control, and the impact of new technologies on strategic stability, with his research mainly focused on South Asia.

MELISSA CONLEY TYLER, *Executive Director, Asia-Pacific Development, Diplomacy & Defence Dialogue, Armidale*

Melissa brings a track record of decades of experience in Australian foreign policy to her role with the Asia-Pacific Development, Diplomacy & Defence Dialogue.

For 13 years she served as National Executive Director of the Australian Institute of International Affairs, an independent international policy institute established as a branch of Chatham House in 1924, with close links to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Under her leadership, the AIIA was recognised for three years running as the top think tank in Southeast Asia/Pacific and one of the top 50 think

tanks worldwide in the University of Pennsylvania's Global Go To Think Tanks Index, the only comprehensive ranking exercise. In 2017, she co-authored Think Tank Diplomacy, the first book-length discussion of the role of policy institutes in the international sphere. She joined the University of Melbourne in 2019 as Director of Diplomacy at Asialink and then as a Research Fellow/Associate in the Asia Institute. Most recently she was a visiting fellow in Taiwan at the Ministry of Defense's think tank – the Institute of Defense and National Security Research – funded by a Ministry of Foreign Affairs Taiwan Fellowship. Melissa has extensive experience establishing and sustaining Australia-Asia engagement through Track II dialogues involving government officials, academics, media and business. She is a lawyer and specialist in conflict resolution, including negotiation, mediation and peace education, who worked as program manager of the University of Melbourne's International Conflict Resolution Centre and Senior Fellow of Melbourne Law School. Melissa is a prolific commentator with expertise in Australian foreign policy, Australia's key relationships across Asia and the practice of diplomacy.

MARJOLIJN VAN DEELEN, *Special Envoy for Space, European External Action Service (EEAS), Brussels*

Marjolijn van Deelen assumed the position of EU Special Envoy for Space in February 2024 following 3,5 years of executing the function of EU Special Envoy for Non-proliferation and Disarmament.

Her primary mission is to represent the EU in multilateral fora dedicated to space with a focus on promoting responsible behaviour in space. To that end, she engages with third States through dialogue and consultations. The Special Envoy also has operational responsibilities as to the response to possible threats to or through the systems and services deriving from the EU Space Programme as well as concerning the EU Satellite Centre. She cooperates with European Commission services and contributes to the development of the security aspects of the EU Space Programme as well as all other related matters. Marjolijn van Deelen is a career diplomat of the Netherlands. Before joining the EU External Action Service (EEAS), she headed the Non-proliferation, Disarmament and Nuclear Affairs Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands with the title of Ambassador.

BENEDIKTA VON SEHERR-THOSS, *Managing Director for Peace, Security and Defence, European External Action Service (EEAS), Brussels*

Benedikta von Seherr-Thoß is Managing Director for Peace, Security and Defence at the European External Action Service. Until October 2022, she served as Security Policy Director of the German Federal Ministry of Defence (MoD). From 2017, she was EU Representative of the German Ministry of Defence and Head of the EU Division in the Department for Security Policy for four years. She also had the ministerial lead on Germany's EU Council Presidency in 2020. Prior to that, she worked as Political Advisor to Minister of Defence Ursula von der Leyen for two years. From 2013-15, she was the first defence civilian to participate in the National General/Admiral Staff Officer Course of the Bundeswehr. Before that, she spent more than two years working as Senior Political Advisor and then Deputy Director to the NATO Senior Civilian Representative at ISAF Headquarters in Kabul/Afghanistan. From 2007-11 she functioned as Deputy Head of the NATO Division in the Policy Planning & Advisory Staff to the Minister of Defence, focusing on the Alliance, transatlantic issues and nuclear policy. She started her career at NATO Headquarters in 2004, where she worked as Desk Officer in the Political Affairs & Security Policy Division. Benedikta studied Modern History at the University of Oxford, from where she graduated with a Masters and a PhD.

PETER WAGNER, *Head of Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI), European Commission, Brussels*

Dr Peter M. Wagner is Head of the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI) at the European Commission. Prior to this, he was in charge of coordinating work on the fight against COVID-19 and Head of the Clearing house for medical equipment (COVID-19) in the Secretariat General (SG) of the European Commission. He was head of the Support Group for Ukraine in DG Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) during the period of 2015-2020. Dr Peter M. Wagner's past experiences also include the European Commission's Task Force on Greece (TFGR), as well as leading the unit in charge of defense, aeronautic and maritime industries, in DG Enterprise and Industry (now DG GROW). Prior to joining the Commission in 1999, he was a Researcher at the Center for Applied Policy Research (CAP) based in Munich, Germany, following several years as a journalist and editor for a number of newspapers.

Dr. Peter M. Wagner holds a Ph.D. in political science, history and psychology from Freiburg University.

WILFRED WAN, *Director, Weapons of Mass destruction Programme, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)*

Wilfred Wan is the director of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Programme at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). His recent research focuses on nuclear risk reduction, the impact of emerging technologies, and other issues related to arms control and disarmament. He serves as the co-chair of the Alva Myrdal Centre working group on nuclear disarmament in policy and international law, and is the author of *Regional Pathways to Nuclear Nonproliferation* (University of Georgia Press, 2018). He previously worked at the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), and holds a PhD from the University of California, Irvine.

SANA ZAKARIA, *Senior Research Leader and RAND Scholar for Pandemic Preparedness, RAND Europe, London*

Sana Zakaria is a Senior Research Leader and. She works on emerging technologies and their intersections—AI, neurotechnology and synthetic biology—focusing on the societal, biosecurity, and systemic risks of technological advancement. Her research explores factors shaping technology demand and supply, oversight mechanisms, and resilience in society. As part of her biosecurity focussed work, she examines biological weapons threats and disarmament approaches, alongside frameworks to prevent misuse of dual-use science. She emphasises proportionate oversight and mitigation strategies to balance innovation with security, ensuring technologies are governed responsibly. She holds a PhD in molecular and neurobiology from King's College London.

YUN ZHAO, *Henry Cheng Professor in International Law and Associate Dean (Mainland Affairs), Faculty of Law, The University of Hong Kong*

Prof. Yun ZHAO, LLB, LLM (China University of Political Science and Law), LLM (Leiden University, the Netherlands), PhD (Erasmus University Rotterdam). Prof. Zhao is Henry Cheng Professor in International Law and Associate Dean (Mainland Affairs), Faculty of Law,

the University of Hong Kong (HKU). Prof. Zhao is currently Representative of Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) of the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH). He is appointed as Justice of the Peace, HKSAR; Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Expert Committee Member. He is Standing Council Member of Chinese Society of International Law and Council Member of Chinese Law Society; Chair Professor at Xiamen University. He is listed as arbitrator in several international arbitration commissions. He has published widely on various topics including particularly Space Law, Dispute Resolution.

TONG ZHAO, *Senior Fellow, Nuclear Policy Program and China Center, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington D.C.*

Tong Zhao is a Senior Fellow at the Nuclear Policy Program and the China Center of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Formerly based in Beijing, he now conducts research in Washington on nuclear deterrence, nonproliferation, arms control, emerging military technologies, China's security policy, and regional security in the Asia-Pacific. With a technical background, he also serves as a nonresident researcher with Princeton University's Science and Global Security Program. He is the author of "Political Drivers of China's Changing Nuclear Policy: Implications for U.S.-China Nuclear Relations and International Security", "Tides of Change: China's Nuclear Ballistic Missile Submarines and Strategic Stability" and "Narrowing the U.S.-China Gap on Missile Defense: How to Help Forestall a Nuclear Arms Race."

RAZ ZIMMT, *Director, Iran and the Shiite Axis research program, Institute for National Security Studies (INSS), Tel Aviv*

Dr. Raz Zimmt is the Director of the Iran and the Shiite Axis research program at the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS). He is also the co-editor of the institute's journal, Strategic Assessment. He holds a master's degree and a Ph.D. in Middle Eastern history from Tel Aviv University. His Ph.D. dissertation focused on Iranian policy towards Nasserism and Arab radicalism between 1954 and 1967. Additionally, he is a research fellow at the Alliance Center for Iranian Studies at Tel-Aviv University. He is the author of the book "Iran From Within: State and Society in the Islamic Republic" published (in Hebrew) in 2022, and has published extensively on Iranian politics, society, and foreign policy. He has also regularly provided expert commentary to Israeli and international media. Dr. Zimmt is a veteran Iran watcher in the Israeli Defense Forces where he served for more than two decades.



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